

Women New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



Volume III, No. 3



Spring/Summer 2000



Pictured from left to right are: Vice President Joseph J. Seneca, Douglass Project Director Ellen F. Mappen, and Douglass Dean Barbara A. Shailor.

The Douglass Project

by Linda B. Bowker, Director
Division on Women

With our society becoming more and more technologically advanced, girls must be educated in math and science. They need to be nurtured in their pursuits of these fields. The Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science and Engineering is doing just that.

A newly renovated and equipped space has been opened in the Chemistry Building Annex on Douglass campus.

The Douglass Project was founded in 1986, by Dr. Ellen Mappen, to increase the numbers of young women studying in scientific and technological fields. The American Association of University Women and the National Research Council have recognized it as a model program.

In 1989 the Bunting-Cobb Math, Science and Engineering Residence Hall for Women opened. This Residence Hall program provides mentoring by graduate students.

As a woman who suffers from a mild case of science phobia, it is very impressive to see enthusiastic students pursuing a non-traditional path receive such valuable support!

Congratulations Douglass! 🍀

Governor's Conference on Women: Economic Pathways to Power 2000

Governor's Conference on Women • Tuesday, March 28, 2000

by Laurie Synder

Conference Summary

A fantastic success again! For the fourth time the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Community Affairs' Division on Women hosted the Governor's Conference on Women: Economic Pathways to Power 2000. On Tuesday, March 28, 2000 this all day event attracted over 1000 people from throughout the state to the Skylands in Randolph, Morris County.

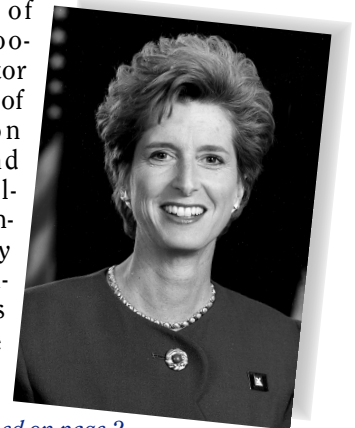
The conference began with encouraging words and a question and answer session from the award-winning ABC News Senior Correspondent and author Carole Simpson.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman was the luncheon keynote speaker. The Governor presented three Governor's Leadership Scholarship Awards to Abiola Fasina, a political science major, Fumi Sugo, a double major in economics and women's studies, and Julie Trotta, a geology major.

The day was very busy with two sessions, consisting of sixteen different work-

shops, which focused on three different pathways: financial, political, and personal. The New Jersey State Commission on the Status of Women sponsored two workshops of particular interest to women's organizations and county and municipal commissions on women.

The evening featured an awards ceremony hosted by the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women in honor of Connie Woodruff. Senator Diane Allen of Burlington County and Beverly Gilbert of Atlantic County were recipients of this year's Connie Woodruff



continued on page 2

Remarks of Governor Christine Todd Whitman

Thank you, Commissioner Kenny, for that introduction. Good afternoon everyone. I am happy to see such a strong turnout. It speaks to the significance of this conference.

Events like this are like professional figure skating. It looks effortless. But I know how much work goes into making it look that way. I want everyone involved to know how much I appreciate all their efforts.

I would specifically like to thank the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Community Affairs, and its Division on Women for coordinating this conference. I also want to thank all of the spon-

sors. Your support has created an excellent opportunity for women from all over the state to meet and explore the issues.

The key issue, as we know, is power: Getting it. Sharing it. Using it to advance women, and the causes important to them. Today's workshops are on topic. They focus on lobbying, running for office, financing a business, and joining a corporate board. There is even a workshop entitled, power, politics, and the corporate ladder.

The most direct path to power is a strong economic base. Thanks to the one-two punch of a vibrant economy and fiscal responsibility, New Jersey has that base.

continued on page 4

Division on Women Hosts Legislative Education Day for Statewide Women Organizations

By Theresa Daniels

On February 28, 2000, the Division on Women and the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women hosted Legislative Education Day for statewide Women Organizations and Commissions on the Status of Women.

The day began with opening remarks from the Department of Community Affairs Commissioner, Jane M. Kenny; Director of the Division on Women, Linda B. Bowker and the Chairwoman of the Commission on the Status of Women, Dianne Mills McKay.

Senator Diane Allen and Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, both spoke about meeting with your legislator and the most effective way to get their attention on an issue. Susan Doctorian,

Director of Public Affairs for Monmouth University spoke about strategizing an issue campaign and the legislative process. Barbara Horl, Manager of Community Outreach, HMFA also served as a speaker. Barbara talked about contacting legislative offices and the methods that could be used. Barbara Reiche, a lobbyist with Nancy Becker & Associates, participated by discussing how to write and deliver testimony before legislative committees. To close the day, Suzette Parmley, a reporter with the Philadelphia Inquirer, State House Bureau, talked about ways to contact the press through press releases, letters to the editors and editorial boards. She also talked about how to put together an effective press conference. 🐾

Conference...continued

Award. Outstanding Women awards were also presented to: Redenia Gilliam-Mosee, Atlantic, Joan Kakascik, Ed.D., Bergen, Cathi Rendfrey, Burlington, Patricia Egan Jones, Camden, Catherine M. Dunbar, Camden City, Ederle E. Peterson, Essex-Newark, Janet Lawra, Hudson, Margaret Varma, Ph.D., Middlesex, Faith C. Liguori, Ocean, Peggy Kavanaugh, Salem, Rose C. McConnell, Somerset, Carolyn Vollero, Union, and Patricia A. Sweeney, Warren. Congratulations to all of this year's winners! Finally, everyone got a chance to sit back and enjoy Comedian Paula Poundstone who left us all laughing.

Look for information over the next year for the FIFTH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON WOMEN in 2001. 🐾

NACW Convention -- Correction

The 2000 convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) will be held from Wednesday, July 5, 2000 through Sunday, July 9, 2000 at the Argent Hotel in San Francisco, with the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women serving as host. The date of August 26th noted in our last issue was erroneous as August 26th, is reserved for celebration of Women's Equality Day around the nation. This year's convention theme is "Women Forces, Women Votes; Developing a National Agenda for Economic Equity, Our Bodies, Our Lives." Speakers include U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey,

Marsha Johnson Evers, national Executive Director of the Girl Scouts of the USA, and Irasema T. Garza, Director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.

Members of affiliated commissions interested in attending should contact the NACW office. The address is -- 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 934, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3803, telephone (301) 585-8101. The NACW conventions provide a unique opportunity to network with leaders of commissions on women from other states and learn about what they are doing to service the needs and concerns of the women of their areas. 🐾

Women: New Jersey

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CONGRATULATIONS...

to DOW staff member,
Elizabeth Cox, on receiving a
"Women of Achievement Award" from
the New Jersey
General Assembly during Women's
History Month.



Governor Whitman Signs Executive Order Creating Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

By Grace Hamilton, MSW



Pictured from left to right are: Division on Women Staff Members Project Director Carol Vasile, Jayne Woodson, Sharon Miller, Andrea Fleisch; Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Division on Women Staff Member Mary Taylor, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Members, Laura Hook, and Anna Trautwein, Project Director Grace Hamilton, Linda B. Bowker, Director, Division on Women and Sam Thompson, Assemblyman, 13th District.

As part of her continuing effort to keep New Jerseyans safe, Governor Whitman announced the establishment of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. The board will lead an effort to study and recommend ways domestic homicide can be prevented. The Governor established the board through Executive Order 110, signed on March 15, 2000.

"As you may know, my administration has addressed domestic violence in a number of ways. It is clear that we must do more. We can't stand by as more women and children die, we have to do all we can to stop the violence."

"The Center for Disease Control calls domestic violence a preventable cause of death. We must figure out how to prevent it. A civil, decent society has an obligation to the victims of domestic violence," said Governor Whitman. "We owe it to them not only to protect and support them but also to do all we can to prevent others from suffering the same fate."

Although many victims and perpetrators of domestic violence are known to helping agencies beforehand, we are unable to predict which cases will proceed to homicide. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board is a project within the Division on Women's Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women. The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety through the Federal Violence Against Women Act funds the project.

A four member team from New Jersey, attended Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews: a National Summit, which was sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Team members were Sandy Clark, associate director of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women; Jessica Oppenheim, deputy attorney general, Divi-

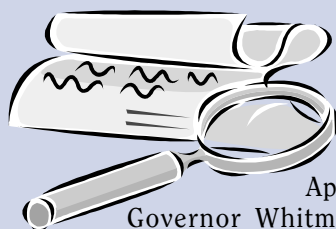
sion of Criminal Justice; Carol Vasile, supervisor, Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (OPVAW); and Grace Hamilton also from OPVAW. Ms. Hamilton is the project director.

The board consists of 15 members: The Attorney General, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services, the State Medical Examiner, the Superintendent of State Police, the New Jersey Public Defender, the Director of the Division on Women, the Supervisor of the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women, and the Project Director of the Domestic Violence Fatality

Review Board grant, or their designees. The Public members appointed by the Governor consist of: a representative of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, a county domestic violence assistant prosecutor, a licensed social worker or a psychologist with demonstrated expertise in the field of domestic violence, a law enforcement representative with experience in domestic violence, a licensed physician or registered nurse or nurse practitioner knowledgeable in the field of domestic violence and/or forensic pathology, and a child protective service worker with experience in family violence and child death review.

The goal of the board is to develop a process for effecting change in policies, procedures, and protocols to accomplish systems improvements towards the prevention of domestic violence fatalities.

When asked to comment regarding the project, Linda Bowker, Director of the Division on Women said, "I am looking forward to working with this diverse group of experts. The project looks at risk markers and system response to domestic violence through a multidisciplinary, collaborative process. This is an important issue whose time has come in the effort to end violence against women." 🐾



Disparity Study

By Theresa Daniels

On April 6, 2000 Governor Whitman signed Executive Order No. 112, creating a commission to conduct a disparity study to identify the extent to which identifiable groups by virtue of their gender, ethnicity, race, or locale have been left behind as the state has enjoyed record levels of job creation and economic prosperity.

At the signing Governor Whitman said, "A diverse economy is a strong economy. By broadening today's prosperity into every neighborhood in New Jersey, we will turn our state into an economic fortress to buttress against any future economic downturns." She continued to say, "There is no better opportunity than the one at hand, to

diversify and intensify economic opportunities and prosperity as an insurance policy against national and economic woes."

The Executive Order, establishes a 22-member study commission to update and expand the current disparity studies that are the basis for the state's small, women and minority-owned business procurement programs.

Governor Whitman also directed the members of her cabinet and the heads of the state's independent agencies and authorities to review their existing programs and resources and to make recommendations to enhance contracting opportunities within state government so that every New Jerseyan can participate in the state's booming economy. 🐾

Governor's Conference on Women

Remarks of Governor Whitman...continued

We have some of the highest salaries in the nation, and more than 392,000 jobs have been added to our economy since the day I took office.

But the challenge is to make sure women are fully enjoying the fruits of that strong economy. It is a challenge near to my heart as the state's first female governor.

How do we do that, and what do women want?

We want the ability to earn more money and keep more of our hard-earned dollars.

We want opportunity, whether it's advancing in politics or gaining the economic tools to build or expand our businesses.

We want support and acknowledgement for our many responsibilities. That could mean help finding child care, purchasing affordable insurance, or balancing the demands of caring for children and elderly family members.

Here's how we are working to provide help in those areas.

First, I have made sure that the first recipients of our prosperity are the taxpayers. Over the past six years, we've cut taxes 37 times, saving New Jerseyans \$11 billion by the end of this fiscal year.

With the coming fiscal year, we're going to do even more. We're taking advantage of a well-stocked unemployment insurance fund to provide tax relief to both employers and employees.

This year's proposed budget includes \$130 million to relieve all New Jersey workers of their unemployment insurance contribution for the next two years, and another \$130 million to lower the unemployment tax on employers.

These tax cuts again demonstrate my basic belief in letting people keep more of the money they earn. That is especially important to the working poor, those who don't earn enough to make themselves economically self-sufficient, many of whom are women.

One of the first things I did when I took office was to remove 380,000 low-income taxpayers from the rolls. More recently, we've exempted another 320,000 low-income earners.

Exempting the working poor from the state in-

come tax, however, doesn't exempt them from all taxes, especially federal payroll taxes. That is why I have proposed the creation of a New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit. This credit, when fully phased in, will pay \$823 to more than 200,000 hard-working families earning the minimum wage.

These proposals, if enacted, will give 40 tax cuts, but women need more than tax relief - they need opportunity.

The number of women-owned business is growing at almost twice the national average. New Jersey boasts nearly 165,000 women-owned business, which generate more than \$26 billion a year in revenue.

As a government, we have a role in fueling the dream of business ownership for thousands of women. Last year alone, more than 5,000 women received training to start and own their own business through our network of Small Business Development Centers. Nearly 3,000 women received valuable one-to-one counseling on managing, marketing, and financing their business.

But small businesses are fragile things. They need a lot more than love, sweat, and tears to keep growing. They need money. The statewide network of New Jersey Small Business Development Centers last year helped 115 women apply for nearly \$15 million in financing.

Seventy clients of those centers were approved for more than \$8 million in financing. Brenda Hopper, the Director of the NJSBDC, is here and I urge you to connect with her.

I want to mention other ways in which the state is helping to provide opportunity. Our two financing entities for business, The New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the Authority for Small Business, Minorities and Women's Enterprises, have a number of programs devoted to businesses owned by women.

These include small business loans for women seeking to create child care facilities, training programs for entrepreneurs, as well as help for women-owned contracting firms.

Last year I signed legislation that established the New Jersey Women's Micro-Business Pilot Program within the Department of

Community Affairs. The two-year pilot program will provide loans, loan guarantees, training, and technical assistance to potential female entrepreneurs looking to start a home-based or part-time business.

Today's women are consummate jugglers. They juggle jobs, households, and children. The women of the Sandwich Generation are juggling all this, plus caring for an elderly parent.

If they are lucky, they are helped by husbands, siblings, or employers. More than likely, they are juggling alone.

State government can't remove their responsibilities, but there are things we can do to help support them.

Juggling so many responsibilities leaves women vulnerable. Too many can't afford health insurance, and this is hurting them.

Lack of health insurance is keeping them from seeing a doctor when they're sick. It's keeping them from getting preventive care, such as annual mammograms or cervical cancer screenings.

This year I am proposing that we take the next \$100 million from the tobacco settlement to address this problem with an insurance program called FamilyCare.

With FamilyCare, we can help 125,000 low-income adults obtain the health insurance they need.

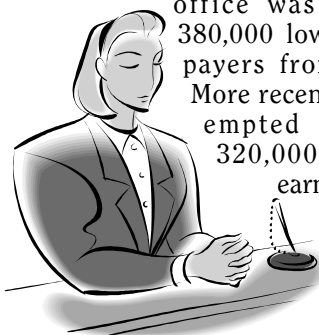
FamilyCare includes preventive care, such as mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, as well as prescription drugs and mental health services.

We want our FamilyCare program to do for adults what our KidCare program has done for the nearly 60,000 children - provide comprehensive insurance. The parents of the children in KidCare will be among the first people we will encourage to sign up.

No woman should avoid seeing a doctor because she can't afford to pay for care.



"The number of women-owned business is growing at almost twice the national average. New Jersey boasts nearly 165,000 women-owned business, which generate more than \$26 billion a year in revenue." - Governor Whitman



continued on page 5

Whitman...continued

With FamilyCare, no woman will have to make that choice.

What's more, early this year, I signed legislation requiring health insurance coverage for annual mammograms for women age 40 and older who have health insurance.

For those women of the Sandwich Generation juggling the responsibilities of caring for both the young and the old, we've launched a series of initiatives to help.

I've committed more than \$60 million for caregiver assistance programs and outreach. We've expanded our respite care program to give caregivers a needed rest, and are creating caregiver training programs to help them with their responsibilities.

We created the Statewide NJEASE program, which is one-stop shopping to help women tap into all the services available for aging parents, such as home-delivered meals, pharmaceutical assistance or help paying utility bills.

For working mothers, I've established a new hotline designed to connect them with local child care services, and we plan to use federal welfare money to add 500 child care slots to the more than 69,000 currently subsidized for low-income parents.

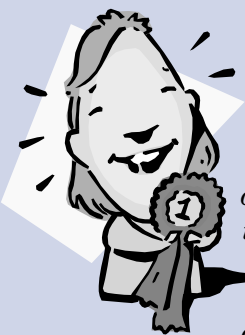
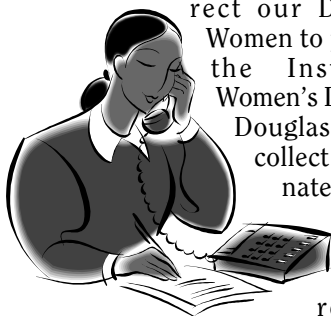
We've launched a \$12 million initiative that will provide support services such as child care and respite care for grandparents - mostly grandmothers - who are now faced with raising their grandchildren.

These have been very good times for New Jersey. We have a strong economy and a bright future. The challenge is to make sure all women enjoy the fruits of our strong economy.

We can help with tax cuts that enable more families to move ahead, with opportunities for women to make their mark in business and public service, and with support for those who are juggling multiple responsibilities.

We can do even more if we arm ourselves with the most current information. That's why I've asked Jane Kenny to direct our Division on

Women to partner with the Institute for Women's Leadership at Douglass College to collect and disseminate information about women and the issues relevant to



Women in the News

Editor's Note: Often, many in the women's network in New Jersey receive significant awards in recognition of their dedication to women's concerns, services, and issues. Many times these tributes of recognition go unreported. We would like to mention some of these women and thank them for all their services on behalf of women.

In April, **Deborah Shaw**, member of the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, received the prestigious "Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award" which was presented to her on behalf of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, in partnership with the Businesswomen's Network and the U. S. Small Business Administration's Office of Women Business Ownership. . . The New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women at its annual dinner in March presented Advocate Awards to **Shamita Das Dasgupta** and **Joan C. Engelsman**. Shamita also was saluted as a Woman of Achievement at the 19th annual Awards Dinner sponsored by Douglass College and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Also receiving Women of Achievement Awards were **Helen C. Fenske**, **Faith Hochberg**,

Dianne Stelling, **Cheryl Wall**, and **Donna Lynn Weinbrecht**. . . At its annual convention in May, the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey presented State Senator **Diane Allen** with its highest award, the Mary Philbrook Award. Senator Allen should also be recognized for having 52 bills signed by Governor Whitman in the last legislative session, the most of any legislator. Also honored by the Woman's Political Caucus were **Jeannine LaRue** and **Patricia Cherry** as outstanding women leaders . . . Atlantic County Commission on Women's Outstanding Woman, **Redenia Gilliam-Mosee** and **Elizabeth Cox** of the DOW staff were among those saluted by the New Jersey General Assembly with Women of Achievement Awards in recognition of their work in behalf of women and the community. ☘

their lives to the business, government, and educational communities. This information will be a great help in shaping policies that are good for women.

As I close, I am reminded of Gloria Randall Scott, the former president of Bennett College in North Carolina, who said the critical responsibility for the generation you're in is to help provide the shoulders, the direction, and the support for those generations who come behind.

We are meeting that responsibility. With our attention to sharing economic success, increasing opportunity, and supporting women balancing the care of families and aging parents, we're providing the shoulders, the direction, and the support - not just for the women of today, but for the women of tomorrow.

There is another form of support we can provide for the women of tomorrow, and that's by recognizing today some young women who have overcome odds and are showing what kind of success teamwork can bring: the women's basketball players of Rutgers. Let's wish them well this weekend in their first visit to the final four.

And speaking of women leaders of tomorrow, it is my pleasure now to invite

Commissioner Kenny to join me in presenting the Governor's Leadership Scholarship Awards.

These awards are presented to three outstanding undergraduates in the Leadership Scholars Program at Douglass College' Institute for Women's leadership. The award recognizes commitment to innovative social change and women's leadership.

This year's winners are: Abiola Fasina, Fumi Sugo, and Julie Trotta.

Abiola Fasina, Rutgers Class of 2002, is a political science major with minors in biology and French. Originally from Nigeria, she plans to go to medical school.

Fumi Sugo, Douglass Class of 2001, is a double major in economics and women's studies. Originally from Japan, she plans a career as a management consultant.

Julie Trotta, Douglass Class of 2001, is a geology major. From New Jersey, she plans to pursue a doctorate in the natural sciences and become a research geologist.

Congratulations. We look forward to great things from you. ☘

Displaced Homemaker's Legislative and Awards Reception

by Dianne K. Ciesla

The Twelfth Annual Legislative and Awards Reception of the Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey, Inc. was held on May 11, 2000 at the State House in Trenton.

Celebrated honorees selected for outstanding contributions to the displaced homemaker centers and/or their clients, or to women and their children were June Applegate, Francesca Fazzolari, Eva Fresca, Todd Gelfand, Esq., Elsa Pena, Assemblywoman Nellie Pou (Democratic) and Assemblyman Joel Weingarten (Republican). A brief biography of the honorees follows.

June Applegate has been an active participant in many civil, social services and community organizations including the Soroptimist International of Monmouth County, which she has been a member of for 40 years. Soroptimist is the largest organization for executive business and professional women of all ages whose mission is to further women's opportunities, growth, and recognition. For the past 5 years, Soroptimist has supported the Displaced Homemakers Program at Brookdale Community College by providing scholarships for its clients. June and her husband, Cliff, who own the family run O'Hagan Nursery, have been generous financial supporters of this program by matching the amount donated for client scholarships.

Francesca Fazzolari has been associated with Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County for the past 6 years. Francesca is singly responsible for turning around Project Self-Sufficiency's fundraising capacity. She is a member of the Board of

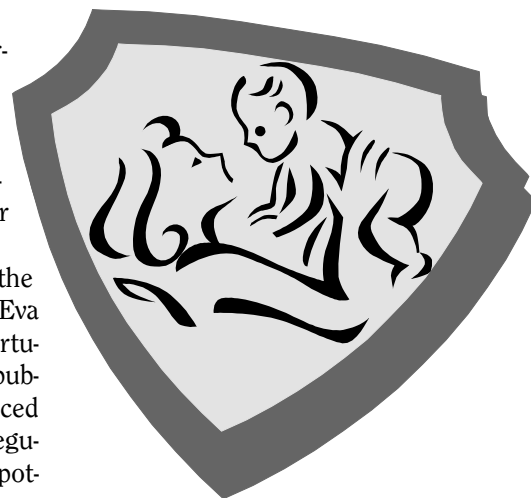
Directors and served as the first chairperson for the agency's first major fundraising event "A Taste of Talent." In addition, she has provided employment opportunities, internship assistance and has facilitated seminars for displaced homemakers.

Eva Fresca is the owner/editor of the Burlington County Woman newspaper. Eva has partnered with the Women's Opportunity Center in an effort to educate the public regarding the plight of the Displaced Homemaker. Articles have appeared regularly in her newspaper, putting the spotlight on the needs of the Displaced Homemaker. In addition, Eva offers free advertising for the Center.

Todd Gelfand, Esq. has been practicing since 1995. As a volunteer attorney from Helmer Kassel & Stowell for the Resource Center in Camden County, Todd has made himself available to meet with clients one evening a month, and has also allowed the Resource Center staff to contact him when they have a client in need. Todd has met with over 20 of the Resource Center clients answering their questions, making sure they understand the answer and that they know their rights.

Another honoree, Elsa Pena, was a client at the Women's Center at the County College of Morris for more than 2 years. Elsa had no resources and took advantage of many services offered by the Women's Center. After attending computer workshops and labs, the Center was able to assist her in getting a job at a social service agency. Elsa serves as a role model and an inspiration to the many women whose lives she touches.

Assemblywoman Nellie Pou represents New Jersey's 35th legislative district. She is the first woman and the first Hispanic to represent the district. Assemblywoman Pou is a member of the Assembly Housing and Budget Committees and she also serves on the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Assembly Advisory Council on Women and the Assembly Democratic Task Force on Children. Assemblywoman Pou has an outstanding record of commitment to helping women, families, and those in need.

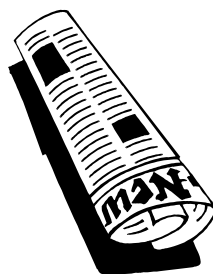


Assemblyman Joel M. Weingarten represents the 21st legislative district of New Jersey. He currently serves as a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Law & Public Safety Committee. He has been appointed Chairman of the State Leasing and Space Utilization Committee. Assemblyman Weingarten has an impressive track record of accomplishments that impact positively on women and their families. A few of the key bills and laws that he has sponsored include expanding Megan's Law, expanding patients' rights by allowing women to remain in the hospital after breast cancer surgery, preventing children's exposure to harmful materials during school construction and he uncovered a \$162 million budget gap.

Scholarships were presented to six clients. The clients were Diana Davis from The Career & Life Planning Center of Hunterdon County, Sherry Davis from the Women's Center at County College of Morris County, Deborah DeVoe from the Transitions Center for Displaced Homemakers of Warren County, Donna Keba from Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County, Lindy MacKinley from the Women's Opportunity Center of Burlington County and Katherine Cotgreave from the Brookdale Community College Displaced Homemakers Program of Monmouth College. These women exemplify the kind of women who amaze and humble those of us who are privileged to work with Displaced Homemakers. ♡

By
Proclamation
signed by
Governor
Whitman, May
was designated
Displaced
Homemaker
Month.

NEWS of the Commissions



Somerset

The 2000 officers of the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women are Chair: Joan Buchanan, Vice Chair: Frances Varga, Secretary: Rita Martin, Treasurer: Marguerite Merritt. Ms. Merritt is also a member of the New Jersey Commission on Women. Last fall, the Somerset Commission published a brochure describing what the Somerset Commission is; what it does; why the Commission is needed; its mission, goals and objectives. It describes the network of commissions on women in New Jersey and the interaction of programs and projects in New Jersey and nationwide. The Commission also has distributed a SEND HELP flyer. The reverse side lists hot line numbers important to Somerset women and their families. The Commission held a dinner on March 3, 2000 in recognition of Women's History Month. Over 325 persons attended. At this time, the Commission honored nineteen



women for their contributions in their professional fields, to women's causes, and/or in community endeavors. In the seven years that the Commission has held this dinner, it has honored over 150 women.

Gloucester

Marguerite Stubbs, Dean of Students at Rowan University, is the 2000 Chair of the Gloucester County Commission on Women. Her fellow officers are – Co-Chair: Gail Slimm, Secretary: Patricia Daniels, Treasurer: Marilyn Sheppard, Press Chair: Barbara Picquet; Freeholder Helene Reed is the Commission's Liaison.

Bergen

On March 5, 2000, the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women presented their annual Women's History Month celebration, "Trailblazers, Heroes & Visionaries – A Celebration of Women's Achievements and Contributions" at the Law & Public Safety Institute for Police, Fire and EMS

Academies in Mahwah. New Jersey Commission Chair Dianne McKay served as keynoter. The celebration also included a collective exhibit of art, photography, and materials reflecting women's issues and organizations. Participating organizations provided information on services for women.



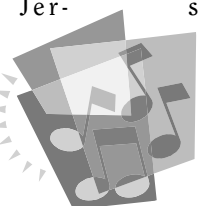
The Bergen Commission is in the process of establishing a junior commission composed of 14 young women of high-school age to engage in a community service project related to women. The Bergen Commission would serve as mentors to the junior commissioners. The commission received 25 junior commission applications. All those applying were saluted as "Young Women of Excellence" at the Commission's Women's History Month celebration. The young women selected as junior commissioners will serve a one-year term, and will be honored at their high school's awards night.

Mercer

On two successive nights this past October, the Mercer County Commission on the Status of Women presented the musical, "Sang Sista Sang" at the Trenton War Memorial in partnership with the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research. A portion of the proceeds went toward paying for breast/cervical examinations for un-/under-insured women.

The 2000 officers of the Mercer Commission are Chair: Diane Marshall, Vice Chair: Rachel Brown, and Treasurer: Bonnie Rick.

On March 11, 2000, the Commission sponsored its second annual "First Time Home Buyers Information Fair" at the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency in Trenton.



The program began with a continental breakfast, and then followed with presentations on credit reports,

credit counselling, lectures from real estate attorneys and realtors, title companies, builders, lenders, home insurers and home inspectors. Upcoming activities of the Mercer Commission include its annual women's health luncheon; "Mom"ogram event, providing mammograms to un-/under-insured women; and, the announcement of the third annual round of mini-grants for peer health education.

In April, a sister county commission, the Mercer County Commission on Abused, Neglected, and Missing Children, presented its fourteenth annual "Cherish the Children Awards" acknowledging outstanding service to children in Mercer County. One award was given to that professional best exemplifying an individual "committed to enhancing the quality of life of children of Mercer County, whose work goes above and beyond the bounds of the workday, and whose dedication and commitment are an inspiration to colleagues." Another six awards were presented to volunteers who advocate on behalf of children.

Cape May

The Cape May County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women has published a brochure for recruitment of volunteers to assist the Commission with carrying out the charges given it by the Board of Freeholders – "To study the needs, capabilities, and concerns of Cape May's women; determine objectives; centralize/disseminate information;

recommend programs to meet these needs; provide a forum to increase the participation of women; consult with other organizations working toward the betterment of women in Cape May County." To assist it in the carrying

out of its charges, the Commission has formed a Talent Bank of volunteers. The volunteers would investigate the following areas – workplace discrimination, credit, housing, displaced homemakers, child care, pay equity, training and life skills, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, health, alcoholism, female offenders, and children's services.

Over the course of the past year the Commission has engaged in a number of activities. It has updated its "HELP" guide (a quick reference topical resource list of organizations and services for Cape May County residents). It sponsored, together with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, a community presentation on New Jersey's child

continued on page 8

NEWS

...continued

support program. The presentation offered information on accessing child support services, and the benefits and responsibilities of such services. On an ongoing basis, the Commission conducts a Legal Clinic through the offices of its past Chair, Beverly Sharps Muller, Esq.

The Cape May Commission also has looked into health education, and abstinence education; In December, it conducted a "Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies" program. This winter it joined with the County Superintendent of Schools to explore the possibility of a special school for pregnant teens, similar to one already set up in Atlantic County.

For Women's History Month, to promote awareness of the achievements of women, the Commission conducted a "Women of Achievement Poster Contest" which was open to all school students in the county, grades 5-8. The students were asked to create a trifold exhibiting the achievement of one woman/group of women in the areas of science and medicine; history, politics and social reform; visual and performing arts; and, sports. At the March 28th Freeholder meeting, an award was presented to each of the first prize winners, along with a Certificate of Achievement. In June, the Commission is holding a parents' workshop on sexuality.

Atlantic

The Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women held its fourth annual Legislative Breakfast on March 3, 2000 at the Blue Heron Pines Restaurant and Golf Club in Pomona. Dignitaries attending included elected officials on the federal, state, and county levels, representing all or part of Atlantic County. In addition, leaders of other women's organizations in Atlantic County attended. The officials received presentations by the Commission on the subjects of "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren," "Economic Empowerment," "Women with Disabilities," and, "Domestic Violence." They were then given an opportunity to respond. Also at the Breakfast, the Commission handed out its updated survey, "The Women of Atlantic County,"



providing indicators of the status of women in Atlantic County.

Other projects of the Atlantic Commission during the past year include publication and distribution of a "Send Help" placard; and hosting a networking reception for Atlantic's 27 boards and commissions so that they could all learn about one another. In the fall, together with the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission hosted a conference for mid-life women, "Just for Me." The conference included workshops on financial management, and "My New Identity in Relationships." The Commission's 1999-2000 officers are Chairwoman: Karen Levin, Vice Chairwoman: Loretta Rehman, Secretary: Jules Werinberg, Treasurer: Gay Bergman Laubert.

Camden City

On March 22, 2000, the Camden City Commission on the Status of Women presented the program, "Celebrating Womanhood" at City Hall. Co-sponsors were the city's Department of Health and Human Services, Virtua New Jersey, and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. The program was a community asset network workshop dealing with systems that build important relationships in the lives of children, second-step family and community partnership, building relationships and assets for the youth. Certificates of appreciation were presented to women who exhibited untiring efforts to improve the community by building themselves through training; commitment to financial stability; supporting services for our youth; maintaining high self-esteem; building and maintaining relationships with the business community; and, working toward self-empowerment that will ultimately improve the quality of life for individuals and families throughout the City of Camden.



Mayor's Commission (Newark)

To mark Women's History Month, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women (Newark) held its annual Hall of Fame dinner on March 30, 2000 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. At this time, they inducted five outstanding women into their Hall of Fame. They are - Mabel Bentley Perry, head of Perry and Perry Education Consulting (together with her husband Claude); Elizabeth Del Tufo, Executive Director of Newark Boys Chorus for the

past 12 years; Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, media psychologist, certified sex counsellor and advice columnist for Essence magazine; Emily "Cissy" Houston, recording artist, and President/CEO of the Whitney Houston Foundation; and, Isabel Miranda, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The 1999-2000 officers of the Newark Commission are -President: Trish Morris-Yamba, Vice President: Shirley Cook, Secretary: Betty McGovern, Treasurer: Isabel Costa, and Parliamentarian: Ederle Peterson (the Commission's Outstanding Woman awardee for 2000). Lifetime achievement awards were presented to Patricia Ryan (First Vice President of the Women's Board, New Jersey Performing Arts Center), and Dr. C. Delores Tucker (Chair, National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc.).

Union

On March 31, 2000, nearly 300 people attended the Union County Commission on the Status of Women's eighth annual "Women of Excellence" Dinner. The dinner honored 12 area women who have distinguished themselves in business, education, health care, government, law, the arts, and community service. Each woman selected was chosen because of her dedication, leadership, and commitment in her area of endeavor. The honorees were Willetta BaCote (women's advocate), Joanne M. Caruso (community service), Marcia Cohen (arts & humanities), Anne Evans Estabrook (business), Sharon Freshwater (entrepreneur), Joan Frances Harris (community service), Dr. Denise C. Lagos (education), Patricia A. Plante (volunteerism), Freeholder Deborah Scanlon (government), Lenore Scurry (volunteerism), Holly E. Wetscher (health care), Sergeant Nancy Zimmerman (law enforcement).



Hudson

On March 29, 2000, Geraldine Clark, Acting Chair of the Hudson County Commission on Women served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the official celebration of Women's History Month by Hudson County. The event was held at the Brennan Court House, an historic Jersey City landmark. County Executive Robert Janiszewski gave the County's official proclamation of Women's History Month and spoke at great length about past and present Hudson

continued on page 9

women leaders, including New Jersey's first Congresswoman, Mary Norton, a former Hudson County Freeholder. The program saluted women in the judiciary – New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Jaynee La Vecchia; Elaine Davis, Presiding Judge, Criminal Division (Hudson), Superior Court of New Jersey; and, Sandra Cunningham, the first and current Executive Director of the Hudson County Bar Association. Justice La Vecchia spoke on women court trailblazers in New Jersey.



Warren

During the past year and thus far this year, the Warren County Commission for Women has engaged in a number of activities. It held its annual Woman of the Year luncheon – this year's honoree was Nancy Radwith, founder, editor, publisher of the Knowlton News (weekly); it conducted a self-defense program for area women; it sponsored an essay contest for students grades 7 - 12; handed out "Send Help" signs to motorists (the reverse side of the signs contained information about the Commission); and it put on a political debate among Warren County candidates for Freeholder and the General Assembly. In short, the Warren Commission has had a very busy year, and expects 2000 to be equally as busy.

Camden County

The 1999-2000 officers of the Camden County Commission on Women are – Chair: Brenda L. Hollway (Somerdale), Co-Chair: Terri Horn (Pennsauken), and Secretary: Dorothy Bradley (Laurel Springs).

Essex County

Dolores Cooper, former Chair of the East Orange City Committee on the Status of Women, and President of the Essex County School Board Association, was killed in late April in a head-on collision on the Garden State Parkway. During her tenure as Chair, East Orange had one of the premiere commissions on women in New Jersey. Kandice Dickinson, founding member and Chair Emeritus of the Essex County Advisory Board on the Status of Women, died suddenly of a heart attack on Monday, May 8, 2000. In 1998, she was honored as a "woman who has made a difference," and presented with an Outstanding Woman Award by the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women. Former East Orange Committee Treasurer and former Freeholder Sheila Oliver is now Assistant Essex County Administrator, overseeing the county departments of Citizen Services and Economic Development, Employment & Training. ☘

Ready to Run Conference

New Brunswick • Friday, March 31, 2000

Conference Summary

On Friday, March 31, 2000 at the New Jersey Law Center, the Center for American Woman and Politics and the Institute for Women's Leadership, both part of Rutgers University, sponsored another of their "Ready to Run" conferences to help New Jersey women understand what is involved in seeking public office and to encourage them to step forward, take the plunge, and run. Some 75 women prospective candidates attended. The conference was an intensive one-day program starting at 8:00 in the morning and going straight through until 5:00 in the afternoon.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman, who serves as honorary co-chair for the "Ready to Run" conferences, delivered the keynote address, "New Jersey Needs YOU to Run" [see "Remarks of Governor Christine Todd Whitman" below]. Conference workshops covered the topics of "Positioning Yourself for Public Office," Putting Together Your

Campaign," Raising Money for Campaigns," "Getting Your Message to the Voter," and "Running as an Outsider or Challenger." Workshop moderators and panelists included leading women from both sides of the aisle, and 2 male campaign consultants (1 Republican and 1 Democrat). The workshops answered such questions as -- leveraging a political appointment into a run for office, the essential management functions of a campaign, how much money will be needed and how to raise it, effective use of media outlets in New Jersey, advice on running a grassroots campaign, and challenges in fundraising facing women candidates.

For further information on the "Ready to Run" conferences, contact Tema Javerbaum, Center for American Woman and Politics, Eagleton Institute, Woodlawn, Rutgers University, 191 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick 08901-8557, telephone (732) 932-9384, extension 265. ☘

Remarks of Governor Christine Todd Whitman

"...women take on the issues that are important to families and quality of life." -Governor Whitman

Thank you, Mary (Hawkesworth) for that introduction.

Good morning. I am happy to see you all here. As honorary co-chair of "Ready to Run," I want to add a few words of encouragement as you contemplate your future in politics.

This conference is two-parts "how to" course, one-part pep rally. The pep rally is to make sure you know that New Jersey needs you.

We need you as members of congress, mayors, freeholders, county clerks, and registrars. We need you as members of your township committees, and as state legislators.

We need you because women take on the issues that are important to families and quality of life. We tackle issues such

as health care, elder care, education, housing, and the environment.

It's not only what we do that's important, but how we do it. Women are consensus builders. We bring to our decisions a variety of voices and try to shape policy reflecting those voices. We are strong communicators and good listeners, with a keen ear for the voices of women, children, and the poor.

I'm frequently asked, "What's it like being a woman governor?"

I'm tempted to respond, "How should I know? I've never been a male governor."

But I know what they're getting at with that question: Does gender make a difference in governing, and, if so, how?

I believe it does. It's more than a matter of equity. The goal is diversity. Not diversity for its own sake, but diversity for the richness in outlooks and perspectives.

continued on page 10

Ready to Run Conference

Remarks of Governor Whitman...continued

Let me give you an example: the 48-hour hospital stay legislation for new mothers.



Insurance companies were cutting hospital stays for new mothers and babies shorter and shorter. Legislation was on my desk to extend that insured stay to 48 hours for new mothers who have a natural delivery, and longer for those who undergo a c-section.

Well, that's one bill I didn't have to think about twice. Having had two children - one each way - I immediately understood the concerns and worries

of the families and physicians.

Would a man have signed that legislation? Probably.

He just may have needed more convincing - as I might on certain legislation that would strike a chord with most men.

But that's why we need to put more women in office. For the outlook, the life experience, and the perspective they bring.

I've seen many examples of women's leadership during my tenure, whether it's in the area of domestic violence through legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Rose Heck, or protecting the elderly with criminal background checks for home health aides through legislation led by Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg.

Leadership also means extending opportunities to other women. I am proud to have taken a leadership position in naming the first woman, Deborah Poritz, to be the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

But I also recognize this talk about leadership may seem abstract. First things first: running for office. That alone can seem like an uphill struggle. After all, it's pretty lonely out there for women.

New Jersey is one of three states in the nation with a female governor. I'm honored to hold this office, but I also recognize our state has a long way to go on the road to more equitable representation.

Since women got the right to vote, only five New Jersey women have held seats in Congress. New Jersey ranks in the bottom third of the nation in the proportion of women in its state legislature. Of 120 available seats, only 19 women serve in the state Legislature - three in the state Senate and 16 in the Assembly.

Only 32 of the 137 county freeholders in New Jersey are women, with only three serving as freeholder director.

That's why this conference is so important. It is a tremendous educational opportunity, with workshops on bread-and-butter issues of public office.

Today's workshops will focus on building a campaign, shaping your message and getting it to the voters, and that all-important issue— raising money.

The workshops are led by Republicans. They are led by Democrats. But party affiliation isn't important today. What's

important is learning what it takes for you to run and, better still, to win.

Every journey begins with the first step. That first step starts with interest. It's not enough for you to show interest, the party chairs in your county need to be interested in bringing women aboard. Party chairs in all New Jersey counties need to reach out to women and support their efforts.

Let me tell you about one county that has taken a very impressive step in that direction. The Ocean County Republican Party sent at least 10 women to this conference. That's a big commitment, but it's the kind of encouragement and support that has to happen.

I want to applaud Ocean County GOP Chairman George Gilmore and the Ocean County Federation of Republican Women on their efforts.

Even in cases when the parties don't reach out, take that first step. Remember, politics isn't a dance. You don't have to be asked. Take the chance because the rewards of public service far outweigh the risks.

You may get a few knocks, you may even lose, but it's not the end of the world. You can use that experience to launch your career. I am proof of that.

Listen to this quote: "Conventional wisdom says that an election has only two possible outcomes: winning or losing. But conventional wisdom completely overlooks a very important alternative- seizing the opportunity to run a race so well that, despite a defeat, a career is launched."

I wrote that for a magazine in 1990, following my Senate defeat to Bill Bradley. Keep in mind that one door may close, but another may open.

Ready to Run is a collaborative effort by the Center for the American Woman and Politics and the Institute for Women's Leadership, and I applaud its mission. I also congratulate each of you on your decision to take advantage of this terrific opportunity.

I can't say this enough: we need you. We need your intelligence, your experience, and your perspective. We need your leadership. We need your commitment to the issues that are important to women and that make New Jersey an

"...Remember, politics isn't a dance. You don't have to be asked. Take the chance because the rewards of public service far outweigh the risks." -Governor Whitman

even better place to live, work and raise a family.

March is Women's History Month, a time when we celebrate the achievements of great women. As this month comes to a close, I want you to think about your place in history. How will you make your mark?

The time is right. The opportunity is here. Take it.

I hope you come away from this day ready to take on new challenges, ready to showcase your talents, and ready to run.

Thank you. ♡

Award Winners



Recipients of this year's Outstanding Women Awards selected by their local Commissions on Women.



Chairwoman Dianne Mills McKay presents the Connie Woodruff Award to Senator Diane Allen (R-7).



Commissioner Lynn Caterson presents the Connie Woodruff Award to Beverly Gilbert, Director of the Atlantic County Woman's Center.



Recipients of this year's Outstanding Women Awards selected by their local Commissions on Women.

Y2K CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 26

Women's Equality Day.

October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For information, please contact the Division on Women at (609) 292-8840.

October 28

Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey, Inc.'s 25th Anniversary Summit & Gala Dinner. Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, Rte. 1 South, North Brunswick, NJ. For more information call (609)386-0589.

November 10 - 12

The New Jersey Task Force on Women and Addiction 25th Anniversary Conference, Asbury Park. For more information call (732) 775-8816.



Bookmarks Available

Editor's note: The following bookmark as well as others are available. Please call the Division on Women at (609) 292-8840 for more information.

Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley Revolutionary War Heroine 1754-1832

Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley was the daughter of a German emigrant dairy farmer in Trenton, New Jersey. Known as "Molly," McCauley married John Hays at age 15. When he joined the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment stationed near Trenton, McCauley joined him as one of the wives who traveled with the troops sewing, cooking, laundering and nursing.

During the morning of the battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, McCauley carried water back and forth from a stream to give to the soldiers who were dying from heat exhaustion and thirst. The rest of the day she spent nursing the wounded. When she saw her husband was wounded, McCauley took over his post of ramrod at the cannon and kept the weapon in action while Washington fought and won the battle.

A witness to her heroic efforts noted that the cannon balls flew between her legs ripping away her petticoat. She is said to have commented that it was lucky it did not pass a little higher because it might have carried away something else. It is also believed that George Washington himself complemented her for her heroism in battle.

After her husband's death a few years later, she married John McCauley and lived out the remainder of her life in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The legislature of that state, by a special act, awarded her an annuity for her services during the Revolutionary War. History has immortalized her as "Molly Pitcher," a term given to women who performed many of the same duties Mary McCauley did during the war. She may very well be the real "Molly Pitcher," but is certainly representative of all the "Molly Pitchers" because of her actions at the Battle of Monmouth.



Reference: Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women. The Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc., 1990



Remember:
Woman's Equality Day
August 26, 2000



Event information will follow.

*Mark your calendar now
for this special event!*



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